

REMARKS

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 11, 15, 17, 26-28 and 44 were objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 11, 15, and 44 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and should now be allowable.

The limitations of claim 17 and intervening claim 16 have been incorporated into base claim 8, and claims 16 and 17 have been canceled. Therefore, amended claim 8 should now be allowable.

The limitations of claim 26 and intervening claim 25 have been incorporated into base claim 24, and claims 25 and 26 have been canceled. Therefore, amended claim 24 should now be allowable.

Claims 27 and 28 are no longer dependent upon a rejected base claim, and should now be allowable.

Other claims have been amended to correct typographical errors.

Claims 1-5, 7, 13, 14, 37-43 have been canceled.

Remaining Dependent Claims

The remaining dependent claims 9, 10, 12, 18-23 and 29-36 are all properly dependent upon allowable claims, and are thus allowable therewith. Each of these dependent claims adds one or more further limitations, but those limitations are not presently relied upon to establish patentability. For that reason, and not because applicants agree with the examiner, no rebuttal is offered to the examiner's reasons for rejecting these dependent claims.

The application should now be in condition for allowance.

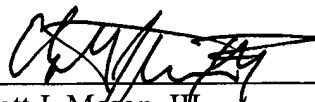
Applicant : Robert Jewett et al.
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Respectfully submitted,

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Elliott J. Mason, III
Reg. No. 56,569

Fish & Richardson P.C.
Telephone: (617) 542-5070
Facsimile: (617) 542-8906

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